



Malta and the Maltese—III.
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Special Correspondence of the Intelligencer.

VALETTA, MALTA, Feb. 20, 1892.—The street scenes of Valetta may be briefly described in the statement that if one could combine Waterport street and the Alameda of Gibraltar, the Toledo of Palermo, the Eolus of Athens and the modern Boulevard de la Republique of Algiers, and then remove from this conglomerate some of its Iberian and oriental aspects, you would secure an excellent likeness to the impression you gain from the colorful scenes of every-day life and activities in the chief city of Malta.

The constant presence of the British soldiery, the splendid, luxuriant and sometimes wantonly extravagant displays of the government officials and garrison officers, with endless parades and reviews, alone give the place extraordinary life and activity. As every native inhabitant of the islands is an adherent of the Roman Catholic faith, priests and students clad in priestly garb are never absent from sight; while the processions are of an extraordinary number and frequently characterized by the greatest splendor.

Every day, and often many times a day, the huge passenger steamers of the Mediterranean discharge hosts of tourists here. Thousands during the winter months are on their way to and from Egypt, Australia or India. Thousands more are merely Mediterranean travelers. Nearly all are here but for a day, but the accessions are ceaseless, and their members comprise people of every nationality. These are anxious to see much in little time, and with their chatter in all tongues, craning heads and enthusiastic faces, brighten and brighten the gay scenes of the handsome thoroughfares.

ODD THINGS OF INTEREST.

Then in all this singular and unique medley there are odd trifles for interest and study ceaselessly passing before you, or forming distinct bits of color and antique in the strange and curious settings. Barefooted sellers of delicious Maltese oranges, which hide no less than nectar beneath their thin red skins, dart through the streets with their melodic cries and their endless "Sn-has!" or "Good mornings!" whatever the time of day, the most agile and alert human beings you ever behold.

Groups of waterman straggling to their homes beyond Floriana, redolent of harbor-side toil and traffic, gaily nod and smile and chant as they move with in the throng. Here a bevy of bright faced maidens, with the roll and swagger of old sea salts, but with the gravest decorum, look in this shop and that with respectful curiosity, always forming pleasant groupings, and now and then touching a sympathetic chord in your heart as members of the band straggle behind to peer into the faces of tourists with an eager, hungry look, as if with a faint hope of recognizing friends or relatives from the far away home. Officers from men-of-war, smileless and critical, and interested chiefly in the great fortifications, pass and repass constantly. They have a tolerant sort of bearing, and the look in their faces plainly tells the wonders their battle ships might accomplish even against Malta should they ever chance to attempt a breach in its walls.

Solemn Turkish travelers and merchants, viewing everything askance, as though they remembered the Turkish heads La Valetta once blew back from cannons' mouths into the ranks of the besiegers, as reprisal, suddenly appear, whisk along for a moment, and as suddenly are missing. Algerian Jews, often with their beautiful wives and daughters, rich in robes and splendid jewels, sweep past with a truly regal bearing. Well they may, for with the French in Algeria they are gaining great wealth from the vast tobacco plantations of Mascara, and they bring their finest cargoes to Malta, where the cheapest and best cigars in the world are made by the deft Maltese, who feel that they are rolling in wealth if they receive for one year's labor what would sustain the American cigarmaker for only one month.

A MIXED SCENE.

With all these will be half-naked Greek and Sicilian sailors, chattering and gesticulating wildly. Cowled monks move noiselessly along. Shopmen rush from place to place to secure what their customers desire without losing them while in the purchasing mood. Hawkers of lava *bijouterie* and lace plead and wrangle with tourists. Military bands are coming and going, filling the air with English, Scottish and Irish melodies. While adding to the exhilarating clamor of the town, are heard all the tongues of all nations, and above these the clanging of countless church bells. These are never rung. They are always hammered with emulous staccato, as if each bellman were envious of outhammering all others. The bells are never silent from matins to the angelus hour of evening. Even after that time they often break out as though they had got loose from restraint and were determined to enjoy a night of it;—as all humans seem to do here in the soft and languorous air.

Indeed Valetta is never silent save in the early morning hours. Then it is like a city of the dead; but always sweet and cool and winsome. At that time if you are abroad alone, the silent churches, the huge abbeys, the tremendous ramparts, the vast archways, the dim porticoes and the shadowy balconies seem to whisper anew their tales of romance old, their mysteries of chivalry and knightly days.

But soon from this patio, from that narrow thoroughfare, another silent archway, from huge barred doors that open and close with a startling click, come funeral forms, clad in somber black. They glide along with bowed heads. Their advent has been so sudden and their number is at once so great that you are filled with surprise and dismay. But these do not remain. For a soft and delicate hand, as if by accident, with a swift motion changes the folds of the faldetta, and the pretty faces of half a thousand Maltese maids and matrons are one by one for a moment turned roguishly or kindly to yours. Then you realize that the faithful fair of Valetta are on their way to early mass, and you stand there, hat in hand, yourself a reverent worshiper, mentally blessing one and all for their piety and pretty graces.

These Maltese women are among the pleasantest of their sex, both as to the

physical attractiveness and winsomeness of manner and character. They are as a rule more petite than those of Italy and Spain, but are very perfect as models of proportion and natural grace. Their carriage is superb. They possess an assurance which is never boldness, with a modesty untainted with prudery. Their feet hands, and heads are very small; their faces round rather than oval; their eyes and mouth are large and expressive; and their hair is an upward, confident and expectant look in their faces that is very winsome—at least to men.

CHARACTER OF MALTESE WOMEN.

They are not generally intellectual, but, better still, they are contented home-makers, and are like birds of song in all the homelike joys. They mate early, being mothers at fourteen and grandmothers at thirty, when they are still youthful and charming. During the reign of the Knights quite an aristocracy of wealth and nobility for so small an area of population sprang up in the islands, which continues to this day, and the Maltese women of this class are types of the greatest beauty and elegance. As the men of the middle and lower classes are noted for docility, thrift, frugality and many other excellent virtues, virtue itself is the crowning glory of Maltese maids and matrons; and to know this and of their affectionate, true-hearted and unassuming lives and ways is to find in every expression of female loveliness an added and lasting charm.

The shops in Valetta are peculiar in their character. Of late years Malta has become such an important winter resort for English and continental visitors, and such great numbers of sight-seers for a day are now certain to be deposited by the dozen or more steamers making daily arrivals, that the shops of Strada Reale and Grand Rue have gradually taken on the character of a grand bazaar of the more fragile and costly products of all Mediterranean and Levantine countries.

Merchants from Tangier, merchants from Fez, merchants from Algiers and Tunis, merchants from Cairo, Alexandria and Constantinople, Persian and Arabian merchants, Italian merchants and Spanish, even the thrifty Swiss with their curious from the mountains, and the ubiquitous Japanese, all with their most tempting wares, are here, living together in mutual good will; and with tailors from London, perfumers and modistes from Paris and cafetiers from Greece, furnish a bewildering display and variety of costly wares and luxuries that could be found save by a connoisseur in Paris, London or New York.

This not only adds greatly to the charm and interest of the street scenes and displays, but tends towards luxury in habit and life on the part of those enjoying the winter upon the islands. The shops are all drawn from the wealthiest of the British, Germans and French. They live sumptuously at the great hotels, at clubs or in private villas in the suburbs of Valetta, the principal of which is Sliema, where the elegance and display is not unrivalled in the London West End. The English government of Malta has provided splendid driveways and greatly improved the country roads. Indeed in the costliness of apparel, in the magnificence of the shops, in the throngs of fair women of the northern type, and in the superb displays in riding and driving that in any winter afternoon may be seen along upper Strada Reale and Grande Rue, and from Porta Reale through Floriana, around to Sliema, and over every white driveway leading to the interior, constantly remind one of the throngs of Regent streets, and the morning procession of stately equipages in London's famous Rotten Row.

CHURCH OF ST. JOHN.

Every stranger in Malta will visit the great Church of St. John. It stands today as it left the grand master's hands, save in what it was deprived of by Bonaparte's looting. If not perfect in architectural grace, its exterior, which is surmounted by the Maltese Cross, is massive and stately, while the interior with its historic associations ever in mine is wonderfully impressive. It is gorgeous with every species of decoration. The high altar is resplendent with silver, gold and precious gems. It occupies the center of the choir and at either side are low diaks beneath crimson canopies, with a solitary chair on each; one for the Catholic bishop of Malta and the other dedicated to the Protestant ruler of England. Above the latter are royal arms.

Not the least interesting in features of the Church of St. John are the chapels of language and the memorial vaults of departed knights. The nave is long and wide, and the walls are fretted in curious devices, gift with sequin gold. Approaching the aisles on either side the eye rests, as though golden arches, upon a range of small dome-crowned chapels, the altar-pieces of which are curious old paintings. These were the chapels of the different languages or nations, as of France, Italy, Provence, Auvergne, etc., and these are extraordinarily rich in noble monuments in marble and bronze. The Virgin Chapel, hidden from the body of the church by the choir, possesses a balustrade of massive silver; and here are to be seen the keys of three cities of strength, over which the Knights of St. John once ruled—Jerusalem, Acre and Rhodes. Standing out from the dark paneling of the choir immediately behind the altar, sculptured in white marble, is a representation of the "Baptism of Christ." It is the work of Maltese artists of the seventeenth century; and I have not seen its superior in any of the famous churches of Europe. The high bodily-arched vaulting of the roof is entirely covered with paintings representing scenes and incidents in the life of St. John, and the tapestries that hang below, which are said to have cost \$30,000, are of wonderful proportions and beauty.

BEAUTIFUL MONUMENTS.

Between the pillars separating the nave and the aisles, are many monuments, some encrusted with Jasper and agate and all of unrivaled richness and grandeur. It is said that at least every surface square foot of the vast structure covers the body of a once valiant knight; the monuments to grand masters, and architects and painters engaged in the embellishment of the edifice are bewildering in their frequency and magnificence; and the entire structure stands to-day a grand, yet pathetic, mausoleum and reminder of the

power and glory of those Christian warriors of a heroic and chivalrous past.

This constant mingling of reminiscences of medieval heroism with every other quality and object so strange and unique in eastern life and ways, the whole lightened by the gaieties and brilliancies of the thousands of wealthy strangers of your own kind and tongue, is one of the most fascinating sensations to be experienced in any city of the Mediterranean.

Wherever you turn you are confronted by majestic or exquisite relics of a former grandeur carrying its material splendor into the present, and weirdly conjuring the forms, faces and lofty motives of those who built. Everything you see shows your modern power adapting the souvenirs of the most lustrous chivalry the world ever knew to the practical and unpoetic uses of far-reaching diplomacy and aggressive acquisition. And everything you hear illustrates how the warm vigorous blood of to-day is flowing back upon all the east and its dead past, thrilling a new and better life into its mummied old frame.

EDGAR L. WAKEMAN.

A COOL SUICIDE.

He Shakes Dice for the Drinks While He Was Dying.

AKRON, Ohio, March 18.—Guy Clifton Wright, of this city, a traveling salesman, entered a saloon here late last night and called for a glass of seltzer. He poured into it three drams of chloral hydrate and coolly stirred the mixture as he laughed and talked. Then he drank the deadly poison. Turning to the proprietor he said: "I'll be dead in five minutes. I want one more drink. I'll shake you for it."

Thinking Wright was joking the saloon keeper replied, banteringly: "I don't like to take chances with a dying man, but I'll go you."

Wright won the first "horse" and the saloon keeper the second. The latter smiled as he threw four trays in the final round. Wright's first dash yielded a pair of fives, his second did not better them. Calmly he tossed the dice the last time. "Four fives," said he, "I win," and placing his hands convulsively to his head he dropped to the floor unconscious and died in a few minutes. His wife's desertion of him led to the suicide.

Tired of Life.

EL PASO, TEX., March 18.—W. H. G. Heinster, civil engineer of Chicago, aged fifty years, suicided here this morning by taking morphine. His wife resides in Baltimore.

And Her Heart Went Out to Kyrle.

New York, March 18.—Mrs. James Brown Potter, looking careworn and thin, was interviewed in London yesterday. Telling of a theatre fire at Cape Town, that burned all her effects and those of Kyrle Bellew, she used these touching terms: "Poor Kyrle lost every stitch of clothing he had in the world, as all his stage wardrobe was at the theatre. As a rule, I don't like to see a man cry, but my heart went out to Kyrle, as he stood and watched his clothes go, while the big tears rolled down his cheeks."

Seals Ask to be Taken.

SUMMERSIDE, QUE., March 18.—There is much excitement at Cape North over the appearance of thousands of seals. The entire population is engaged in capturing them and are making good hauls. It is nearly eighty years since the seals appeared in this vicinity. They are thought to have been carried on the ice from Greenland, the mild weather having loosened the ice.

Death Overtook His Wealth.

MADISON, IND., March 18.—Geo. Crawford, an old Irish stonemason, died here in poverty. When the undertaker was laying him out he tossed his ragged vest to one corner of the hotel. A peculiar sound caused him to examine the vest and \$1,500 was found in it.

How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by taking Hall's Catarrh Cure. F. J. CHENEY & Co., Props., Toledo, O. We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last fifteen years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligation made by their firm.

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When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria. When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria. When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria. When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

A Tawas Bay (Mich.) man, who was being shaved, had his hand down beside the chair when the barber tilted it forward. His hand was caught in the mechanism and when he was liberated one of his fingers was lying on the floor.

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If you would protect yourself from Painful, Profuse, Scanty, Suppressed or Irregular Menstruation you must use

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DRS. FRANCE AND OTTMAN, of New York, the well known and successful Specialists in Chronic Diseases and Diseases of the Eye and Ear, on account of their large practice in Ohio, have established the FRANCE MEDICAL INSTITUTE, where all forms of Chronic, Nervous and Private Diseases will be successfully treated on the most Scientific principles. They are aided by a full corps of eminent Physicians and Surgeons, each one being a well known specialist in his profession.

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YOUNG MEN.—Who have become victims of solitary vice, that dreadful and destructive habit, which annually sweeps to an untimely grave thousands of young men of exalted talent and brilliant intellect, may call with confidence.

DRS. FRANCE AND OTTMAN, after years of experience, have discovered the greatest cure known for weakness in the back and limbs, involuntary discharges, impotency, genital debility, nervousness, languor, confusion of ideas, palpitation of the heart, trembling, dimness of sight, or giddiness, diseases of the head, throat, nose, or skin, affections of the liver, lungs, stomach, or bowels—those terrible disorders arising from the solitary vice of youth—and secret practices, blighting their most radiant hopes or anticipations, rendering marriage impossible. Take one candid thought before it is too late. A week or month may place your case beyond the reach of hope. Our method of treatment will speedily and permanently cure the most obstinate case, and also restore perfect manhood.

TO MIDDLE-AGED MEN.—There are many from the age of 30 to 60 who are troubled with frequent evacuations of the bladder, often accompanied by a slight burning or smarting sensation, weakening the system in a manner the patient cannot account for. On examination of the urinary deposits, aropy sediment will be found, or the color will be a thin or milky hue. There are many men who die of this difficulty, ignorant of the cause, which is a second stage of seminal weakness. We will guarantee a perfect cure in all such cases, and a healthy restoration of the genito-urinary organs.

FREE EXAMINATION OF THE URINE.—Each person applying for medical treatment should send or bring from 2 to 4 ounces of urine (that passed first in the morning preferred), which will receive a careful chemical and microscopic examination, and if requested a written analysis will be given.

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